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JUL 03 2013

Div. of Oil, Gas & Mining

**BLM Cedar City Field Office
Site Inspection Report**

July 3, 2013

File: UTU-78613
David Penney: Lost Gems Project

Inspector: Ed Ginouves, CCFO Mining Engineer

Insp. Date: July 2, 2013

On July 2, 2013, I made an inspection of the Lost Gems project area. The Lost Gems project consists of a (now expired) notice to prospect for gem-quality agate at a number of small natural outcrops.

The notice expired in 2001, when the operator failed to timely file the necessary notice extension. A decision letter notifying him of the notice expiration and required reclamation was sent to the claimant/operator via certified letter dated January 26, 2011. The operator did not appeal the decision. Telephone conversations with the operator since the notice expiration have been focused on measures necessary to obtain full reclamation release. The operator backfilled the prospect pits in 2012, but had failed to reclaim the access road. I had spoken with the operator several times last fall to complete the work – and he assured me he would – but confessed this spring that it hadn't yet been done. With additional urging in recent telephone conversations, he performed the work on June 22, 2013.

Background information and maps of the site disturbances are contained in the inspection reports for the June 20th, August 16th and 18th, 2000 inspections. The previous inspection was made June 4, 2013.

The weather was sunny and hot. Site conditions were very dry.

Inspection Findings: To my great delight, I found the reclamation work had been carried out on the access road as requested. The operator had walked his track hoe in from the Jockey Road and, starting at the prospect sites, had dragged every dead and down tree adjacent to the road back over the road bed. Sections of the road bed had also been pocked and ripped to prevent vehicle use, even if the trees were removed.

Photographs are attached.

Recommendation: I would consider the reclamation performed at this site adequate to allow for full bond release. The work carried out is all that can reasonably be expected of the operator. Vegetative cover surrounding the disturbances is pinyon-juniper forest with practically no understory growth. Soils are thin, rocky and low in organic content. Vegetation will establish on the disturbed areas through native seeding, but will be a long-term process.



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Typical section of access trail to prospect pits with dead and down trees dragged back on the trail.



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Typical section of access trail to prospect pits with dead and down trees dragged back on the trail.



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Example of trenching across the road to prevent future vehicle travel.



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Typical section of access trail to prospect pits with dead and down trees dragged back on the trail and trail surface deeply ripped.